

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 16196 01 OF 02 202123Z

64

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 202049Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0613

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 16196

EXDIS

NESCO

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UNESCO, US, IS

SUBJECT: UNESCO-US-ISRAELI RELATIONS

REF: PARIS 15824

1. ISRAELI PERMREP ELIEZER YAPOU CALLED ON PERMREP JONES ON JUNE 19 TO DISCUSS LATEST DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING THE UNESCO-US-ISRAELI IMPASSE. YAPOU WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE JUNE 17 MEETING BETWEEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM AND UNESCO DG M'BOW OF WHICH YAPOU APPARENTLY WAS INFORMED BY THE UNESCO HOUSE GRAPEVINE.

2. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT POINT RAISED IN CONVERSATION WAS PERMREP QUERY TO YAPOU AS TO ISRAELIS VIEWS ON FORTHCOMING HELSINKI MEETING OF PRIVATE EXPERTS TO CONSIDER DIPLOMA EQUIVALENCY CONVENTION AND PARTICULARLY WHETHER ISRAELIS WOULD FAVORABLY CONSIDER AN INVITATION TO ATTEND, IF IT SHOULD BE FORTHCOMING; AN INVITATION WHICH M'BOW ADVISED ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM HE WOULD CONSIDER ISSUING IF HE COULD BE ASSURED ISRAELIS WOULD NOT REFUSE AND THEM PROMPT PRESS CRITICISM OF THEIR
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PAGE 02 PARIS 16196 01 OF 02 202123Z

ABSENCE (SEE REFTTEL).

3. YAPOU SAID HE WAS NOT AWARE OF DETAILS OF THE MEETING AND THAT HE COULD NOT PREDICT A GOI RESPONSE SHOULD THEY BE INVITED. YAPOU SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT HIS GOVERNMENT AND WOULD ADVISE PERMDEL WHEN HE RECEIVED A REPLY. RE DETAILS OF MEETING, PERMREP AND DELOFF EXPLAINED THAT PARTICIPATION IN MEETING COULD BE IN FORM OF (A) ALLOWING AN EXPERT TO PARTICIPATE IN PURELY PRIVATE CAPACITY ALONG WITH A DOZEN OR SO OTHER PRIVATE EXPERTS, OR (B) SEND NON-PARTICIPATING BUT "OFFICIAL OBSERVER" DELEGATION.

4. PERMREP NOTED THAT US ACTIVELY EXPLORING ALL POSSIBLE MEANS TO RESOLVE PRESENT IMPASSE. WHILE HELSINKI MEETING PARTICIPATION WOULD BE A RELATIVELY SMALL STEP, PERMREP AND DELOFF STRESSED PARTICIPATION OFFERED SYMBOLIC VALUE OF CLEAR ISRAELI IDENTIFICATION WITH A UNESCO ACTIVITY FOR ITS EUROPEAN MEMBER STATES ALONE AND WOULD SET VALUABLE PRECEDENT FOR ISRAELI PARTICIPATION IN EUROPEAN REGION.

5. HOWEVER, YAPOU'S REMARKS IN GENERAL INDICATED THAT GOI MAY STILL BE HOLDING HARD LINE ON UNESCO AND, IN PARTICULAR, HOLDING OUT FOR A COMPLETE REVERSAL, IN EFFECT OR EXPLICITLY, OF 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE ANTI-ISRAELI DECISIONS RATHER THAN SEEK OR ACCEPT GRADUAL CONCILIATORY MEASURES. IN PARTICULAR, HE REFERRED TO UNESCO PROBLEMS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE SPECIFIC REFERENCE

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PAGE 01 PARIS 16196 02 OF 02 202129Z

64

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 16196

EXDIS

TO THE ARABS' CONCERTED "DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE" THROUGH-
OUT THE UN AGENCIES AGAINST ISRAEL; SUGGESTING GOI
VIEW THAT COMPROMISE IN UNESCO WOULD UNDERMINE ISRAELI
POSITION ELSEWHERE IN UN SYSTEM. NEVERTHELESS, YAPOU
CONFIRMED GOI READINESS TO RECEIVE UNESCO REPS TO
INSPECT JERUSALEM EXCAVATIONS ONCE AGAIN; PROVIDED THERE
WAS NO LINKAGE TO THE JERUSALEM SANCTIONS RESOLUTION.

6. YAPOU CONTINUED TO CRITICIZE THE SECRETARIAT AND
M'BOW IN PARTICULAR FOR THE NON-INCLUSION OF ISRAEL IN
THE LIST FOR THE ARAB EUROPEAN-MEDITERRANEAN MEETING ON
EQUIVALENCIES. YAPOU STATED THAT THE ISRAELI REPRESENTATIVE AT THE EXBD MEETING FAILED TO RESPOND TO A
DIRECT QUERY FROM M'BOW AS TO WHETHER THEY WISHED TO BE
INVITED BECAUSE GOI FELT IT SHOULD NOT HAVE TO ASK FOR
AN INVITATION. PERMREP REMINDED YAPOU THAT DG M'BOW
HAD BEEN LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR GETTING PLO ITEMS OFF
EXBD AGENDA WHICH WOULD HAVE SURELY PASSED IF PUT TO A
VOTE AND WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN USED TO ACCORD PLO FURTHER STATUS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO GAIN RECOGNITION PRIOR
TO ANY GENEVA CONFERENCE. PERMREP POINTED OUT THAT THIS
WAS A MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT AND PROBABLY MUCH MORE IMPORTANT
THAN AN INVITATION TO A MEETING OF EUROPEAN AND ARAB
STATES. YAPOU DID NOT INDICATE ANY APPRECIATION OF
M'BOW'S ACTIONS BLOCKING THE PLO INITIATIVE.

7. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR THAT THE MAJOR PURPOSE OF
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PAGE 02 PARIS 16196 02 OF 02 202129Z

YAPOU'S VISIT WAS TO SEEK AS MUCH INFORMATION AS
POSSIBLE CONCERNING THE BUFFUM-M'BOW TALKS. HE IS
CERTAINLY WELL AWARE OF THE HELSINKI MEETING AS IT WAS
FIRST RAISED DURING THE LAST EXBD MEETING. THE FACT
THAT GOI DECLINED AN INVITATION FROM THE CANADIAN
NATIONAL COMMISSION TO ATTEND A UNESCO MEETING IN
CANADA DURING THE MONTH OF MAY SEEMS TO
INDICATE LITTLE REAL INTEREST IN CONCILIATION AT THIS
TIME.
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